



Hinges & Tongs

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC

P.O. Box 10206, BRIGHTON STATION
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610-0206

RPA OFFICERS

2003 – 2004

President- **Paul Gerwitz**

Vice President- **Mark Hull**

Treasurer- **Rich Spinelli**

Corresponding Secretary,

Editor *Hinges & Tongs*

Joe Doles

Recording Secretary

Tom Fortunato

Board of Governors

John Cali

(term expires June 30, 2004)

Ed Kawasaki

(term expires June 30, 2005)

Chuck Schultz

(term expires June 30, 2006)

Immediate RPA Past President

Jim Picuch

Appointments

Membership Chairperson

Florence Wright

Librarian- **Joe Doles**

Articles may be submitted for publication to:

Joe Doles

105 Lawson Rd.,

Rochester, NY 14616-1444.

Neatly hand-written or double spaced typewritten or sent electronically to **JKD52@aol.com**.

Any originals submitted for scanning will be returned.

CLUB DUES ARE DUE

RPA dues are \$15 per year. The year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Your check should be made payable to **RPA** and sent to membership chair,

Florence Wright

**33 Northumberland Road
Rochester, NY 14618-2405**

Recruit three new members and your next years dues are paid.

SEPTEMBER 2003



Kingston Donates Podium

RPA member Robert Kingston donated a portable electronic loudspeaker and podium system to the club. Donated in memory of his wife Beverly, Bob's daughter Kathy Minarik made a dust cover for the unit. Kathy's husband Phil is also an RPA member. Both Bob and Phil have been members since 1993. Thank you, all.

Life Member Honored

By Florence Wright



From L TO R : Florence Wright, Bob Steeb, Elli Steeb, Nancy Clark, Doug Clark, Ada Prill*, Norm Wright, Alice Johnson, George Fekete*, Rick Kase, John Flannery*, Tom Fortunato, Dick Moore. *American Philatelic Society Board member.

Nancy Z. Clark is the most recent Life Member of Rochester Philatelic Association, and she received her plaque in a rather unusual way.

More than a dozen RPA members attended the APS Stampshow in Columbus, Ohio in August. At the suggestion of Tom Fortunato, members planned a get-together Friday morning, Aug. 8 on the show floor. At that gathering, Florence Wright, membership chairman, presented the Life Member plaque to Nancy, to the applause of all the RPA members present.

A member may receive this honor after 25 years of consecutive paid membership, after which club dues are free. Nancy (Zielinski) joined RPA in 1978 when she lived in Rochester. She later moved to Georgia, and now lives in Massachusetts with her husband Doug Clark, who was with her at the presentation.

Board Meeting Notes - Wednesday, August 20, 2003, 7:30 PM

Attending:

Paul Gerwitz- President, **Mark Hull**- Vice President, **Joe Doles**- Corresponding Secretary, **Tom Fortunato**- Recording Secretary, **Rich Spinelli**- Treasurer, **John Cali**- Board Member, **Chuck Schultz**- Board Member, **George Hill**- visitor, **Rick Kase**- visitor.

Absent:

Jim Piecuch- Immediate Past President, **Ed Kawasaki**- Board Member.

Tom read the minutes from the last meeting. Two corrections were made before the final version was approved.

Rich mentioned that all required signatures were now on file with the bank and new checks could again be written and CDs dealt with. As of July 1 RPA accounts contained \$711.18 in checking, \$13,000.65 in the money market account, and \$15,129.67 in CDs, totaling \$28,832.50. By July 18 that total was \$29,067.07. Additional ROPEX dealer deposits and cover money was turned in by Tom this evening totaling \$625. Rich has developed a spreadsheet for accounting all RPA finances.

Paul was contacted by the Presbyterian Church about RPA meetings. They requested three documents: RPA incorporation papers, a paragraph on the group's mission statement, and proof of insurance liability. The church later found the latter two documents, and Paul provided them with a copy of the latest insurance papers, which expire in October. The church was provided with a complete list of RPA meeting dates for the new season, September 2003-June 2004 by Paul earlier.

Meeting room fees for our new season have increased from \$40 to \$47 per 2 hour session. An additional \$14 per meeting will be paid for chair setup and takedown provided by church staff, totaling \$61 per meeting.

Ed has been named by Paul to head a committee which will create a survey with the goal of determining meeting subject and collecting interests of the majority of members. Details about how it will be presented (in written or verbal form) will be determined, but only members in the greater Rochester area will be asked to participate in it on a selected basis.

Discussion about the need for a complete physical inventory of RPA property concluded with the request that Joe update the list of publications in the RPA library, as they are the only tangible assets which change regularly. Joe was also urged to give a brief presentation at each meeting about a different library book to bring it to the attention of the membership.

Mark outlined the list of RPA meeting topics through the end of 2003. He is working on the 2004 schedule as well.

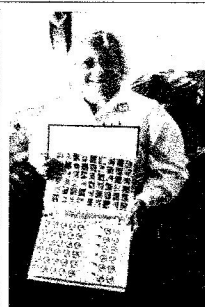
(See meeting schedule on last page.)

The cause for diminishing attendance at the annual year-end banquet was talked about. Several ideas were discussed, including holding it in conjunction with the ROPEX banquet (this idea was nixed), replacing the traditional Strawberry Night with the banquet instead, or moving the event to a beginning of the season affair sometime in September. So, too, were various award presentations, and programming possibilities. In years past the banquet was followed by an auction, live presentation, or slide show of general interest to attendees. Rich volunteered to make program recommendations for the 2004 banquet, and will be joined by others volunteering to part of this committee once our 2003-2004 meeting season begins.

Paul led a discussion about the need for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within the RPA. Further thought will be given as to how these can augment interest in RPA meetings and our members' collecting needs.

John has asked to compare the RPA Articles of Incorporation with the current RPA constitution for inconsistencies, omissions, and possible constitutional amendments and/or rewording, especially regarding RPA officer liability.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. The next Board meeting is called for on Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 at Paul's. (Ed note: RPA Board meetings are always open to all members, please notify Paul if you plan to attend).



Slide Librarian Named

RPA member Florence Wright has been named the new ATA slide librarian to replace Frank Gomba who served in that job for many years. Ray Cartier, new executive director of the ATA, made the announcement at NTSS in Denver in June.

The photo of Florence was taken by staff photographer Carrie Ann Grippio of the Brighton-Pittsford Post. In the November 13, 2002 issue, Florence was showcased in *Talk of the Town*. The article entitled Stamping out lung disease, mentions Florence starting out collecting Christmas stamps after all the kids had moved out about ten years ago. Only after being at a stamp show did she decide to collect Christmas seals, from all over the world as well as the United States.

A complete printout of the 2002-2003 RPA Treasurer's Report has been included with this issue of Hinges and Tongs.

ROPEX 2003 Wrap-Up

By Tom Fortunato

Well, what more can be said about our big show this year?

Hopefully all of you got a chance to visit the Webster Community Field House, our new ROPEX home.

While much thought went into the floor plan, the acid test was when we finally got in to set it up. It's a huge facility, even with the 185 tables and 550 chairs all in place. Everyone was pleased with having spacious aisles, larger dealer tables, and especially areas for just resting!

The weather certainly cooperated for us. Temperatures stayed in the mid 70's, with rain only on Saturday morning. One of our biggest fears was a prolonged heat spell which didn't develop. The field house isn't air conditioned, employing a forced air circulatory system instead. There were some kinks in the automated system on Saturday which were only resolved by Sunday. Thanks to the RPA members who stood guard at the doors Saturday afternoon allowing fresh air in for an hour or so.

The fact that we completely filled our 250 exhibit frames was even a surprise to us. It reversed a trend that we've noticed for some years locally and nationally. A combination of factors helped. Changing the time of year to early summer helped, as many exhibitors prefer to travel with their displays rather than mail them in. We also had a cooperative venture with the Canadian national show, Royal 2003 Royale, which allowed for some cross-border exhibiting.

Some 40 dealers took tables at ROPEX 2003. That, too, was a record. We had quite a few new dealers trying us out. Others returned after a long absence. Results were a mixed bag for dealers. Some did well, some did not. At the time of this writing in early July, 6 dealers have already signed up for next year. August 1 is the deadline to guarantee dealers their same location before we start the push to recruit for the 2004 show.

We have never registered or counted show-goers at ROPEX. But attendance seemed a bit light this year, despite the fact that we were able to finance extensive local advertising this year. The expanse of the hall could be deceiving, as the Diplomat Banquet Center was much more cramped, and fewer people would make it look fuller. Saturday morning's rain had the dealers salivating in hopes of drawing a larger crowd than actually showed up.

What did you think of the model trains and Corvette on display? They certainly added to the festive atmosphere this year. The G Gauge Model Railway Society brought an elaborate setup with them, and were thankful for the opportunity to show it off. Having the car on display was a touch and go affair, as it was delivered to Doyle Chevrolet only days earlier and sold just hours after arriving. Permission of the new owner needed to be arranged before it could be displayed at the Field House.

The Webster Community Partnership, proprietors of the field house and other facilities in the town, were most gracious and cooperative throughout the year leading up to ROPEX, and could not do enough for us during the show.

All appreciated having the Webster Athletic Boosters Organization running the concession stand and providing members of the Webster Schroeder football team to help out with setup, takedown, and dealer assistance.

I am indebted to the ROPEX Committee for their tireless efforts this year in making the show a reality:

John Cali- Meeting Manager

Joe Doles- Staging Manager, Flyer Manager, Cancel & Cachet Designer

George Fekete- Show Vice Chairman, Bourse Co-Manager, Show Program

Herman Gross- Youth Activities Co-Manager

Mary Iman- Youth Activities Assistant

Rick Kase- Cachet Sales Manager

Ed Kawasaki- Bourse Co-Manager, Advertising Manager

Jim Piecuch- Youth Activities Co-Manager

Ada M. Prill- Stamp Saturday Coordinator, Exhibits Assistant Manager

Chuck Schultz- Hospitality Table Manager, Volunteers Coordinator

Bob and Elli Steeb- Facilities Technical Consultants

Rich Spinelli- Dime Stamps Manager

Raymond Stone- Awards Manager

Ann Trigg- Judging Manager

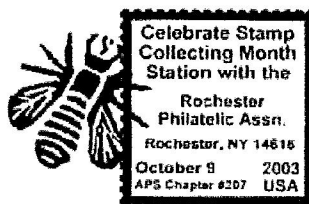
Frank Tritto- Pre-Show Assistant

Yes, planning for ROPEX 2004 is already underway! As you can see from the above, many committee people are doing "double duty" with show assignments. Can you help out? If so, contact **George Fekete**, ROPEX 2004 Chairman, at any ROPEX meeting or by email at gfekete@rochester.rr.com.

Celebrate Stamp Collecting Month

If any of you are up on RPA history you'd realize that March 26 marked our club's 90th birthday! On that date in 1913 the first official RPA meeting took place.

Somehow we overlooked our momentous anniversary last season, but want to make up for it during our annual open house, scheduled for the Thursday, October 9 meeting. We'll be advertising the event in the local press, and even have a commemorative postmark available. See the image of the cancel below. Just BYOSASE-bring your own self-addressed stamped envelopes!



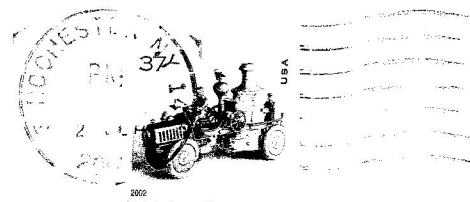
This annual get-together is also a homecoming of sorts, as we ask as many of you more "senior" members as possible to attend this meeting. Come on out and enjoy the fun!

2003

SEPT. 11	OCT. 9	NOV. 13	DEC. 11
Ships on Stamps New ATA slide program with Florence Wright	Annual Open House and "Everyone A Dealer Night"	Battleship Revenues Guest Speaker Walter Orton	Trains on Stamps New ATA slide program with Florence Wright
SEPT. 25	OCT. 23	NOV. 27	DEC. 25
Arlington Cemetery on Stamps Guest Speaker John Babbitt	Santa Clause Post Cards Guest Speaker John Babbitt	NO MEETING	Christmas NO MEETING

Meetings are held at the Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 South Winton Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14618. Regular meeting times are 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Programs start at 7:45 pm sharp.

Hinges & Tongs
Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station
Rochester, N.Y. 14610-0206



From the Prez

Some folks can't, because of age or physical condition, do a lot. But everyone in the club has a brain full of ideas, experiences and knowledge that if put at the disposal of the officers can become the catalyst of new projects and programs. If you don't want to speak before the group, let us have the info or material to use and I or someone else will do the speaking. If you have an idea for a program let us know and I won't ask you to lead it unless you want to. Lets all pull together and make it better.

Paul Gerwitz

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THOMAS FORTUNATO 0205
42 MAYNARD ST
ROCHESTER NY 14615-2022

14615+2022



Rochester Philatelic Association 2003 Income Statement
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Category	Income	Expense	Profit / (Loss)
ROPEX 2003	\$ 21,615	\$ 15,548	\$ 6,067
RPA Operating Fund	2,654	3,029	(375)
Total	\$ 24,269	\$ 18,577	\$ 5,692

Bank Accounts (HSBC Bank)

Certificates of Deposit	\$ 15,121
Checking Account	711
Savings Account	13,001
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 28,833

Total Bank Funds

Non-Cash Assets (Frames, Lights & Stamps)	\$ 28,833
Library	32,000
Net Worth	3,000
	\$ 63,833

Treasurer's Notes

1. The ROPEX 2003 profit and RPA Operating Fund loss are based on the July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003 fiscal year.
2. Included in the results are the following nonrecurring items:
 - Income: \$711 cachet sales (RPA Operating Fund).
 - Expenses: \$443 office equipment (ROPEX 2003), \$443 office equipment (RPA Operating Fund), \$100 donation (RPA Operating Fund) and \$325 cachet sales (RPA Operating Fund).
3. Adjusting income and expenses to exclude lead or lag transactions (e.g., income received after the fiscal year has ended; prepayment of dues) results in a ROPEX 2003 profit of \$5,227 (\$21,434 income - \$16,207 expense) and an RPA Operating Fund loss of \$417 (\$2,601 income - \$3,018 expense).
4. RPA net worth increased 11 percent due primarily to ROPEX 2003 profit. Additions to the RPA Library, stamp donations and non-cash assets depreciation combined to contribute a decrease of slightly less than one percent.

ROPEX 2003 Financial Statement
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Category	Income	Expense	Profit / (Loss)
Administration	\$ -	\$ 67	\$ (67)
Advertising	70	3,083	(3,013)
Awards	-	588	(588)
Banquet	1,400	1,224	176
Bourse	-	-	-
Fees	16,450	150	16,300
Other	-	152	(152)
Total Bourse	16,450	302	16,148
Exhibits	-	-	-
Fees	2,323	133	2,190
Other	198	442	(244)
Total Exhibits	2,521	575	1,946
Facilities	-	2,000	(2,000)
Insurance	-	224	(224)
Jury	-	-	-
Banquet	-	141	(141)
Honorarium	-	1,250	(1,250)
Other	-	212	(212)
Total Jury	-	1,603	(1,603)
Office Equipment	-	443	(443)
Planning Meetings	-	27	(27)
Recognition	-	180	(180)
Security	-	1,259	(1,259)
Show Covers	-	-	-
On-Site Sales	933	398	535
Mail Sales	201	-	201
Total Show Covers	1,134	398	736
Show Program	-	1,050	(1,050)
Staging	-	2,526	(2,526)
Stamp Saturday	40	-	40
Rounding	-	(1)	1
Total	\$ 21,615	\$ 15,548	\$ 6,067

Beginning Balance: July 1, 2002
ROPEX 2003 Profit / (Loss)

Ending Balance: June 30, 2003

\$ (632)
6,067
\$ 5,435

Rochester Philatelic Association Operating Fund
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Category	Income	Expense	Profit / (Loss)
Administration	\$ -	\$ 220	\$ (220)
APS Circuits	5	39	(34)
Auctions	33	-	33
Cachet Sales	711	325	386
Club Memberships	-	15	(15)
Donations	89	189	(100)
Facilities	-	100	(100)
Hinges & Tongs Newsletter	-	467	(467)
Insurance	-	224	(224)
Interest	8	-	8
Meeting Room Rent	-	571	(571)
Membership Dues	1,104	-	1,104
Office Equipment	-	443	(443)
Programs	-	-	-
Banquet	220	271	(51)
Slide Shows	-	55	(55)
Strawberry Fest	-	13	(13)
Total Programs	220	339	(119)
ROPEX Ten Cent Table	485	-	485
Subscriptions	-	50	(50)
USPS Post Office Box	-	48	(48)
Rounding	(1)	(1)	-
Total	\$ 2,654	\$ 3,029	\$ (375)
Beginning Balance: July 1, 2002	\$ (1,103)		
Profit / (Loss)	(375)		
Ending Balance: June 30, 2003	\$ (1,478)		

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.
Income & Expense Statement and Statement of Financial Position
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Presented to the RPA Board and The Membership

Prepared by
George T. Fekete, Treasurer
July 16, 2003